

JOHN B. TREDENICK.

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MAY 12, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. DAYTON, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2645.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2645) granting an honorable discharge to John B. Tredenick, having fully considered the same, recommend its passage with the following amendments:

In line 5 strike out the parentheses and word "apothecary" therein.

In lines 9 and 10 strike out the words "provided said service can be verified by the records of the Navy Department."

The service of Tredenick is set forth in the letter from the Secretary of the Navy, appended hereto as a part hereof. It is clearly shown that Tredenick was willing and anxious to discharge his duty under his enlistment, and repeatedly reported to proper authority even after the 30th of November, 1863, as of which date, under this bill, his discharge will bear date, and was at last informed that his services were no longer needed. The Department has no record of either discharge or desertion. His name seems simply to have been dropped. This was likely done amid the confusion of the war time. The fault was not Tredenick's, and he ought not to suffer therefrom.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, January 15, 1897.*

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request, I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of the Department's letter addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, House of Representatives, under date of February 5, 1896, in the case of John B. Tredenick, late surgeon's steward in the Navy.

Very respectfully,

W. MCADOO, *Acting Secretary.*

Hon. FRANCIS H. WILSON,  
*House of Representatives.*

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, February 5, 1896.*

SIR: Referring to your communication of the 16th ultimo, requesting to be furnished, for the use of the Committee on Naval Affairs in the consideration of the bill (H. R. 2222) "granting an honorable discharge to John B. Tredenick," with a copy

of the record of his service in the Navy, together with an expression of opinion by the Department as to the merits of the bill, I have the honor to state that it appears from an examination of the records in the case of Tredenick that he was appointed a surgeon's steward in the Navy August 27, 1863, at Philadelphia, Pa.; that his name is entered on the rolls of the U. S. S. *Philadelphia*, without accounts, September 3, 1863, and is borne on the rolls of that vessel to November 30, 1863, after which date no further record of his service in the Navy can be found.

In October, 1894, an application of John B. Tredenick for the issuance to him of a certificate of discharge under his appointment as surgeon's steward (apothecary) in the Navy was considered by the Department, but was declined on the 12th of that month on the ground that inasmuch as the records failed to show his final disposition or his whereabouts after November 30, 1863, the date upon which his naval service should be considered as having terminated could not be fixed.

While the Department sees no reason for special legislation in the case of John B. Tredenick, the question whether or not such relief should be granted to him would appear to be a matter for the determination of the Congress.

Very respectfully,

H. A. HERBERT, *Secretary.*

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON NAVAL AFFAIRS,  
*House of Representatives.*

